

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 /087 W

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R 021650Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3974

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORKIE 660

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG XA XF SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: THE SDAR AT OAU

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2535

1. OAU DECISION ON SAHARA HAILED: ALGERIAN MEDIA
MARCH 2 TREAT OAU ACTION ON SAHARA POSITIVELY. FRONT
PAGE EDITORIAL IN FLN DAILY EL MOUDJAHID TERMS ADOPTION
OF SAHARA DEBATE RESUME "REMARKABLE, PROMISING, POSITIVE."
ARTICLES NOTE THAT UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED "CONCLUSIONS"
OF COUNCIL HAD BEEN TO RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF SAHRAOUI
PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO LEAVE TO INDIVIDUAL
GOVERNMENTS DECISION ON RECOGNIZING SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC.
PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF
POLISARIO AS OFFICIAL SAHRAOUI LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAD
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BEEN OVERTAKEN BY PROCLAMATION OF SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC.

IN NUMBERS GAME, PRESS CLAIMS THAT 25 COUNTRIES
"VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED" COUNCIL'S ACTION
AND THAT "ROUGHLY 20" WOULD HAVE FAVORED RECOGNITION
OF POLISARIO.

2. DURING MARCH 1 CONVERSATIONS, FON MIN OFFICIALS
EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT WITH OAU'S ACTION. ONE
NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD AWAIT REPORT FROM
ALGERIAN DELEGATION BEFORE MAKING FINAL JUDGMENT, HE
BELIEVED OAU COULD HAVE DONE MORE. SECOND CLAIMED
THAT OAU SECRETARIAT HAD SPOKEM PUBLICLY OF DANGER OF
ORGANIZATION'S SPLITTING INTO TWO RIVAL FACTIONS.

3. ARAB LEAGUE: MARCH 1 EL MOUDJAHID EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "ARAB LEAGUE OWES IT TO ITSELF TO BREAK ITS
SILENCE" NOTED RUMORS COMING FROM CAIRO THAT ARAB
LEAGUE COUNCIL WOULD SOON ADDRESS ITSELF TO SAHARA
QUESTION. THIS ACTION, EDITORIAL STATES, IS LATE
VIS-A-VIS THAT OF OAU (EDITORIAL PUBLISHED BEFORE OAU'S
ADDIS ABABA DECISION) BUT WOULD BE WELCOME SINCE LEAGUE
FACED WITH GENOCIDE WHICH HAS SAME OBJECTIVE AS
"ZIONIST AGGRESSION,"--NAMELY, LIQUIDATION OF A PEOPLE
AND WEAKENING OF ARAB NATION. LEAGUE SHOULD LEARN FROM
PALESTINIAN EXPERIENCE THAT SILENCE COULD INDICATE
COMPLICITY AND A MEETING WITHOUT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
WOULD BE USELESS. SAHRAOUI HOPE THAT LEAGUE WILL NOT
REMAIN BEHIND OAU AND UN IN RECOGNIZING SAHRAOUI REIGHTS.

4. FON MIN OFFICIALS MARCH 1 WERE MORE UPBEAT ABOUT
ARAB LEAGUE AND RIAD MISSION THAN THEY HAD BEEN ABOUT
OAU. ONE INSISTED THAT RIAD HAD BEEN ENTIRELY WILLING
TO MEET WITH POLISARIO REPS (EGYPTIAN EMBOFF INDICATED
TO US FEB 27 THAT RIAD, WHILE LESS THAN HAPPY ABOUT
SEEING POLISARIO REPS, HAD NOT BEEN DUPED). IN THIS
SENSE, FON MIN OFFICIAL SAID, HIS VISIT HAD BEEN
IMPROVEMENT OVER MUBARAK'S. SECOND OFFICIAL,
HOWEVER, WAS PESSIMISTIC RE CHANCES OF LEAGUE'S DOING
MUCH FOR SAHRAOUI. LEAGUE, HE NOTED, DOMINATED BY TWO
CONSERVATIVE POWERS, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH OPPOSE
SAHRAOUI CAUSE.

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5. COMMENT: DESPITE EFFORT TO PUT BEST FACE ON OAU
DECISION, ALGERIANS APPEAR TO HAVE HOPED FOR MORE OUT
OF NORMALLY FRIENDLY FORUM. EDITORIAL ON ARAB LEAGUE
SUGGESTS THAT ALGERIANS CONSIDERED OAU BELLWETHER FOR
OTHER GROUPS, NOTABLY ARABS, TO FOLLOW, AND IT
APPEARS UNLIKELY ARAB LEAGUE WOULD GO BEYOND OAU.
RECOGNITIONS OF SDAR BEGINNING TO TRICKLE IN,
HOWEVER, AND ALGERIANS RECOGNIZE THEY ON LONG MARCH WITH

POLISARIO AND WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THEIR
AND SDAR CAUSE. LYNE

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